

17 January 2025

David Wright

By email: foi+request-12142-56da2c02@righttoknow.org.au

Dear David Wright

Freedom of Information request — Notification of Decision

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 October 2024, in which you requested access to documents held by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request.

Scope of your request

You have requested access to the following documents:

"I request the following information:

- 1) The number of AAT matters where the NDIA has engaged Dr Sandbank (regardless of whether these matters reached the stage of a hearing or not).*
- 2) The total amount of payments made by the NDIA to Dr Sandbank for all her services for these matters.*
- 3) The number of AAT matters where the NDIA has engaged Dr Maclean (regardless of whether these matters reached the stage of a hearing or not).*
- 4) The total amount of payments made by the NDIA to Dr Maclean for all his services for these matters.*
- 5) The number of AAT matters where the NDIA has engaged Dr Pincus (regardless of whether these matters reached the stage of a hearing or not).*
- 6) The total amount of payments made by the NDIA to Dr Pincus for all his services for these matters.*
- 7) The number of AAT matters where the NDIA has engaged Dr McDowell (regardless of whether these matters reached the stage of a hearing or not).*

8) *The total amount of payments made by the NDIA to Dr McDowell for all his services for these matters.*"

Extension of time

On 15 October 2024, you agreed to a 30-day extension of time under section 15AA of the FOI Act, making 4 December 2024 the new date to provide you with a decision on access.

Decision on access to documents

I am authorised to make decisions under section 23(1) of the FOI Act. My decision on your request and the reasons for my decision are set out below.

Section 17(1)(c) of the FOI Act provides that an agency can produce a written document containing the requested information, by the use of a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available for retrieving or collating stored information. We have been able to produce a document containing the information you requested. I have, therefore, treated your request as if it were a request for access to this document in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the FOI Act.

I have identified 1 document, which falls within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant access to this 1 document in full.

In reaching my decision, I took the following into account:

- your correspondence outlining the scope of your request
- the nature and content of the documents falling within the scope of your request
- the FOI Act
- the FOI Guidelines published under section 93A of the FOI Act
- consultation with relevant NDIA staff
- the NDIA's operating environment and functions.

Release of documents

The document for release, as referred to in the Schedule of Documents at **Attachment A**, is enclosed.

Rights of review

Your rights to seek a review of my decision, or lodge a complaint, are set out at

Attachment B.

Should you have any enquiries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at fox@xxxx.xxx.xx

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. M. J.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kate (KIM627)

Senior Freedom of Information Officer
Complaints Management & FOI Branch
General Counsel Division

Schedule of Documents for FOI 24/25-0466

Document number	Page number	Description	Access Decision	Comments
1	1	Table of Answers Date: 24 October 2024	FULL ACCESS	Document created under section 17 of the FOI Act

Your review rights

Internal Review

The FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of this decision. The review will be conducted by a different person to the person who made the original decision.

If you wish to seek an internal review of the decision, you must apply for the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required for an application for internal review, but to assist the review process, you should clearly outline your grounds for review (that is, the reasons why you disagree with the decision). Applications for internal review can be lodged by email to xxx@xxxx.xxv.au or sent by post to:

Freedom of Information Section
Complaints Management & FOI Branch
General Counsel Division
National Disability Insurance Agency
GPO Box 700
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

The FOI Act also gives you the right to apply to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) to seek a review of this decision.

If you wish to have the decision reviewed by the OAIC, you may apply for the review, in writing, or by using the online merits review form available on the OAIC's website at www.oaic.gov.au, within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

Applications for review can be lodged with the OAIC in the following ways:

Online: www.oaic.gov.au
Post: GPO Box 5218, Sydney NSW 2001
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
Phone: 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Complaints to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner or the Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to either the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the OAIC about actions taken by the NDIA in relation to your request. The Ombudsman will consult with the OAIC before investigating a complaint about the handling of an FOI request.

Your complaint to the OAIC can be directed to the contact details identified above. Your complaint to the Ombudsman can be directed to:

Phone: 1300 362 072 (local call charge)
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Your complaint should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the actions taken in relation to the request should be investigated.